

Passing Hate on to the Next Generation
A Study of Saudi Arabian Textbooks from the 2008 & 2009 School Years



Prepared by:
The Office of Congressman Anthony D. Weiner
June 3, 2009

Executive Summary

This report finds that textbooks in Saudi Arabian schools preach hate towards Jews, Christians and other non-Muslims, expound historical inaccuracies, and propagate subjugation of women. Each year, Saudi Arabian officials assure the United States that these textbooks will be reviewed and that offensive, inaccurate material will be removed. Each year, Saudi officials do little to reform the system and continue to educate a new generation of Saudi children with dishonest, hateful teachings.

The Saudi Arabian school system maintains nearly 32,000 schools, with over 400,000 academic staff educating over 5 million students. In addition, Saudi Arabia runs academies in 19 world capitals and distributes texts worldwide to Islamic schools and madrassas.

While publicly Saudi Arabia continues to espouse a commitment to reform, the authors of these state sponsored textbooks are religious extremists. In March 2006, the *Washington Post* quoted Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the United States, Prince Turki Al-Faisal, as saying: "Not only have we eliminated what might be perceived as intolerance from old textbooks that were in our system, we have implemented a comprehensive internal revision and modernization plan." [Source: Shea, Nina. "This is a Saudi textbook. (After the intolerance was removed.)" *Washington Post*. 5/21/2006.]

And yet, the current 10th grade textbook, *Towheed*, which translates to "Monotheism," was written by a Wahabi extremist named Sheikh Saleh Al-Fawazan. In 2005, the *New York Sun* quoted Sheikh Saleh Al-Fawazan as saying "slavery is a part of Islam" and whoever wants slavery abolished is "an infidel." [Source: Pipes, Daniel. "The Problem of Saudi Slavery." *New York Sun*. 6/16/2005.]

Textbooks used in Saudi Arabian schools are not widely available to the West. In fact, the Saudi Arabian government and its Ministry of Education do not share the textbooks used in their schools and have ignored requests from U.S. officials to receive copies of the textbooks.

The Institute for Gulf affairs, a nonpartisan organization that produces political analysis of the Gulf region, worked with a resident of Saudi Arabia to smuggle the text books out of Saudi Arabia to Bahrain, where they were shipped safely to the United States and then translated for this report.

This report reviews Saudi Arabian textbooks that are mandatory in public schools from the 2008 and 2009 school years and includes a timeline of events that have brought attention in the United States to Saudi textbooks.

Hate Speech Taught in Saudi Arabian Public Schools

I. Preaching Violence Against the Jews

- “The Prophet said, the hour [of judgment] will not come until the Muslims fight the Jews and kill them. [It will not come] until the Jew hides behind rocks and trees. [It will not come] until the rocks of the trees say, ‘O Muslim! O Servant of God! There is a Jew behind me. Come and kill him.’” [Source: *Al Hadeeth wa Athaqafah (Sayings of the Prophet and Islamic culture.)* Page 148, 2009. Taught in 9th grade, age 14.]
- “The Goals of Zionist-Movement:
 1. Instill a fighting spirit among the Jews, as well as religious and nationalist fanaticism to challenge [other] religions, nations, and peoples.
 2. Establish Jewish control over the world. The starting point for this is the establishment of their government in the promised land, which stretches from the Nile to the Euphrates.
 3. Incite rancor and rivalry among the great powers so that they fight one another, and kindle the fire of war among states so that all states are weakened and their state arises.” [Source: *Al Hadeeth wa Athaqafah (Sayings of the Prophet and Islamic culture.)* Page 114, 2009. Taught in 10th grade, age 15.]
- “In the current age, there is nothing more severe to our Islamic nation and more evil than the assault of colonization and its Zionist manufacture.” [Source: *Jawaned Min Tarikh Al Muslmeen Al Hadhari Wa Assyasi (Aspects of the Civil and Political History of Muslims.)* Page 91, 2008. Taught in 11th grade, age 16.]
- “Just as Muslims were successful in the past when they came together in a sincere endeavor to evict the Christian crusaders from Palestine, so will Arabs and Muslims emerge victorious, God willing, against the Jews and their allies if they stand together and fight a true jihad for God, for this is within God’s power.” [Source: *Tarikh Al Mamlakah Al Arabia Al Saudia (The History of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.)* Page 75, 2008. Taught in 6th grade, age 11.]

II. Preaching Violence Against Non-Muslims

- “The Jews and Christians are enemies of the believers, and they cannot approve of Muslims. As God said, ‘Never will the Jews or the Christians be satisfied with thee unless thou follow their form of religion... One must be wary of them.’” [Source: *Al Hadeeth wa Athaqafah (Sayings of the Prophet and Islamic culture.)* Page 148, 2009. Taught in 10th grade, age 15.]
- “The apostate (Muslims who convert, question or doubt Islam) is required to repent to the ruler. If he repents and returns to Islam, it is accepted and he is left alone. If he refuses it is mandatory that the ruler kill him.” [Source: *Towheed (Monotheism.)* Page 33, 2009. Taught in 12th grade, age 17.]
- “It is part of God’s wisdom that the struggle between the Muslim and the Jews should continue until the hour [of judgment]. The good news for Muslims is that God will help them against the Jews in the end, which is one of the signs of the hour [of judgment]. Muslims will triumph because they are right. He who is right is always victorious, even if most people are against him.” [Source: *Al Hadeeth wa Athaqafah (Sayings of the Prophet and Islamic culture.)* Page 148, 2008. Taught in 9th grade, age 14.]

- A group activity taught in the 11th grade asks students to identify ways classmates emulate the West and to come up with the proper punishment under Shari’ah law:

“From what you see today in terms of imitation of the West in those things which are harmful, involve your classmates in mentioning some examples of this imitation, with an explanation of their wisdom and their punishment according to Shari’ah law.” [Source: *Jawaned Min Tarikh Al Muslmeen Al Hadhari Wa Assyasi (Aspects of the Civil and Political History of Muslims.)* Page 90, 2008. Taught in 11th grade, age 16.]

III. Propagation of Human Rights Abuses

- “The punishment for homosexuality is death... Ibn Qudamah said, ‘The companions of the Prophet were unanimous on killing, although they differed in the description, that is, in the manner of killing. Some of the companions of the Prophet stated that [a homosexual] is to be burned with fire. It has also been said that he should be stoned, or thrown from a high place.’” [Source: *Fiqh (Jurisprudence.)* Page 100, 2009. Taught in 10th grade, age 15.]
- “The blood money for a Muslim woman is half of the blood money for a male Muslim, and the blood money for an infidel woman is half of the blood money for a male infidel.” [Source: *Fiqh (Jurisprudence.)* Page 65, 2009. Taught in 10th grade, age 15.]
- In a section describing the requirements for a marriage to be valid, a textbook for 12th graders affirms the right of a parent to force their children into marriages against their will:

“The Conditions required for valid marriages are:

- Acceptance of the couple. So when the contract is signed, it must be done with the acceptance of the two parties... The exception to that is if one of them is not responsible for "his actions," such as the insane and young boys and girls. Then it’s allowed for the father or his deputy to marry them to others without their acceptance because their permission is not required.”

[Source: *Fiqh (Jurisprudence.)* Page 43, 2009. Taught in 12th grade, age 17.]

Timeline: Saudis Broken Promises to Change the Hateful Textbooks

Sept. 2003: Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, tells Time magazine that "the [text] books have been changed [to remove inappropriate content] for the new school year." [Source: Byer, Lisa. "After 9/11: The Saudis: Friend or Foe?" *Time Magazine*, 9/15/2003.]

2004: Saudi Arabian Royal study group distributes a report finding that the Kingdom's religious studies curriculum "encourages violence toward others, and misguides the pupils into believing that in order to safeguard their own religion, they must violently repress and even physically eliminate the 'other.'" [Source: Shea, Nina. "This is a Saudi textbook. (After the intolerance was removed.)" *Washington Post*, 5/21/2006.]

March 2005: A Saudi Arabian embassy spokesman announces: "We have reviewed our educational curriculums. We have removed materials that are inciteful or intolerant towards people of other faiths." The embassy distributes a 74-page review on curriculum reform to indicate that the textbooks have been moderated. [Source: *Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia News Conference Subject: Anti-Extremism/Anti-Terrorism Campaign. Federal News Service*, 6/16/2005.]

May 2006: Saudi Arabian Ambassador Prince Turki Al-Faisal, says: "Not only have we eliminated what might be perceived as intolerance from old textbooks that were in our system, we have implemented a comprehensive internal revision and modernization plan." [Source: Shea, Nina. "This is a Saudi textbook. (After the intolerance was removed.)" *Washington Post*, 5/21/2006.]

April 2007: Diane Sawyer asks Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Faisal why the Saudi Arabian school system textbooks have not been revised. He responds:

Faisal: Remember, there is intolerance in every religious book. We are preaching now in the school openness, friendship amongst people of the, of the faiths and understanding.

Sawyer: But we're reading from it. It says, 'Every religion other than Islam is false.' And this is for first graders.

Faisal: Well, it is.

[Source: Sawyer, Diane. "Saudi Foreign Minister; Old Allies New Ways." *ABC News Good Morning America*, 4/11/2007.]

September 2007: Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom John Hanford announces at a State Department briefing with Secretary Rice, "We've also discussed with the Saudis the need to address the intolerant literature in their textbooks and other educational materials...and they have given assurances that they are in the process...but there is a way to go for these references to be fully removed." [Source: *Remarks by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom John Hanford, III*, 9/14/07.]

March 2009: The AP reports that an Islamic Saudi Academy in northern Virginia, which committed to moderate its text after previous criticisms, still uses textbooks that say: "Scholars of the People of the Book know that Islam is the true path because they find it in their books," an 11th-grade textbook reads. "But they shy away out of ignorance and stubbornness. And God knows their deeds and will judge them." [Source: Barakat, Matthew. "Saudi Academy revises Islamic history books." *Associated Press*, 3/12/09.]

Methodology

The Office of Representative Weiner compiled this report, with help from the Institute for Gulf Affairs, by translating the following textbooks in circulation in Saudi Arabian schools today.

- *Al Hadeeth wa Athaqafah and Islamic Culture* (Sayings of the Prophet and Islamic culture), 9th Grade, 2009.
- *Al Hadeeth wa Athaqafah and Islamic Culture* (Sayings of the Prophet and Islamic culture), 10th Grade, 2009.
- *Fiqh* (Jurisprudence), 10th Grade, 2009.
- *Fiqh* (Jurisprudence), 12th Grade, 2009.
- *Jawaned Min Tarikh Al Muslmeen Al Hadhari Wa Assyasi*(Aspects of the Civil and Political History of Muslims), 11th Grade, 2008.
- *Tarikh Al Mamlakah Al Arabia Al Saudia* (The History of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), 6th Grade, 2008.
- *Towheed* (Monotheism), 12th Grade, 2009.